PROBLEMS FOR 'SUN' READERS TO SOLVE
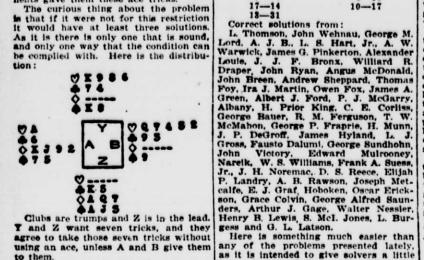
An Original Proposition at Bridge in Which Aces Don't Take Tricks.

PUZZLERS AT CHECKERS

Bridge problem No. 373, by S. C. Kinsey, was based upon the rather original proposition that the players on one side were to do the required number of tricks without any of the three aces in play taking a trick, unless their opponents gave them these ace tricks.

The curious thing about the problem is that if it were not for this restriction it would have at least three solutions. As it is there is only one that is sound, and only one way that the condition can be complied with. Here is the distribution:

♥ K 9 8 6
♦ 8 7 4
♣ K 8 3

♠ Q 7 4 5 2   Y   ♥ Q 9 5
      Z

♠ K 8
♥ A J 7
♣ A 5 7

Clubs are trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want seven tricks, and they agree to take those seven tricks without an ace, unless A and B give them to them.

The solution is for Z to lead the jack of spades, which Y wins and leads the seven of trumps. It does not matter whether it covers the trump lead or not, as Z must win the second round of trumps in either case.

As A's remaining spade is of no use to him he will probably discard it on the second trump lead. When Y leads the three of spades so as to put Y back into the lead A is face to face with the principal condition of the solution of the problem.

If A discards a diamond Y will at once throw him into the lead with a heart, upon which Z will discard his small diamond. Now A must give Z two tricks with the two aces. In order to make good Z discards the ace of hearts on the spade lead.

This turns the attention to B's hand, and Y leads the king of hearts. If B refuses to win it Y will go right along with the six, which B must win, or he allows Y to make the king and solve the problem at once.

While this play in the heart suit is going on between Y and B it is evident that Z has to throw away both his aces and the queen of diamonds, so that no ace at the table ever takes a trick.

Correct solutions:

Only four persons solved this problem: J. C. Hume, W. P. W., Henry Andresen and Roscoe C. Harris. All others failed through not complying with the terms, as they made Z deliberately lead an ace and take a trick with it, when there were still three other cards in his hand to lead that were not aces.

It was rather a difficult matter to state the conditions clearly without disclosing the key to the solution, which would have made it no problem at all. The composer twice revised his statement of the condition before the problem finally appeared.

The first idea was to say that Y and Z were not to win a trick with an ace, unless the trick were forced upon them but as A was the only player who could do this, and the only card he could get in with was the ace of heart, any one could have guessed the solution at a glance, and there would be nothing to it.

It was clearly stated that no ace was to win a trick unless A or B gave it to them. This does not mean that if Z tried to win a trick with an ace and they could trump it that they could not do it. Giving a player a trick that he could not otherwise have made (by leading right up to that suit) is one thing. Allowing him to win tricks when he is in the lead is quite another thing.

Those who tried to solve the problem by leading a small spade, won by Y with the king, and returning a small heart for Z to trump cannot be credited with correct solutions, because after Z leads the top trump he must follow with the ace of diamonds, when he is not forced to do so at all. If B refuses to trump it, the ace wins.

This is a violation of the terms of the problem, as B does not give him the trick; Z takes it. Z could have led three other cards that were not aces.

In the correct solution, on the other hand, if A keeps the ace of hearts Z is forced to make tricks with his aces by A's play, because he cannot get rid of the lead, and must make his aces in spite of himself. Two of those who sent in correct solutions noted this point.

Here is something from a composer who never fails to please and who has given the cracks some of the hardest propositions imaginable for seven or eight cards. In this one he has added an extra card just to complicate things a bit.

BRIDGE PROBLEM No. 375.
By R. C. Mankowski.

There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want only two tricks out of the nine, but they must get them against any defence.

CHECKER ENDINGS

Problem No. 373, which was sent to THE SUN by A. J. McArt, was not particularly difficult after the two moves had been found, but as that move was rather an unusual way to start a problem a good many missed it and could not find any way of getting the win.

This is not astonishing if we consider that when it often takes a player can finish up a game with a win to his credit when he has only one king left in the field, he has two kings and three men still on the board.

The distribution of the pieces is: Black men 9, 20, 24 and 27; kings on 4, 12 and 32. White men on 9, 16, 17 and 23; kings on 7, 13 and 19. White to play and win. Here are the moves that solve:

White	Black
19—24	12—8
7—11	8—4
23—19	15—24
11—7	4—8
17—14	10—17

Correct solutions from:

L. Thomson, John Wehnau, George M. Lord, A. J. B. L. & Hart, Jr., A. W. Warwick, James G. Pinkerton, Alexander Louis, J. P. Bronx, William R. Draper, John Ryan, Angus McDonald, John Breen, Andrew Sheppard, Thomas Foy, Ira J. Martin, Owen Fox, James A. Green, Albert J. Ford, P. J. McGarry, Albany, H. Prior King, C. E. Corliss, George Baker, R. M. Ferguson, T. W. McMahon, George P. Fraprie, H. Munn, J. P. Dedroff, James Hyland, L. J. Cross, Pauric Dalsimi, George Sundbohm, John Victory, Edward Mulrooney, Narvik, W. S. Williams, Frank A. Burns, Jr., J. H. Noreman, D. S. Reece, Elijah P. Landry, A. R. Rawson, Joseph Metcalfe, E. J. Graf Hoboken, Oscar Erickson, Grace Colvin, George Alfred Saunders, Arthur J. Gage, Walter Nessler, Henry R. Lewis, S. McL. Jones, L. Burgess and O. L. Latson.

Here is something much easier than any of the problems presented lately, as it is intended to give solvers a little more time to study out the intricacies of No. 374, which will probably keep them busy for a few days of one may judge by the way the solutions are dribbling in.

For the information of those who are in doubt about the terms of the problem it should be explained that while the solution of No. 374 was given on March 12, the majority of those who have held a place on the honor list are of opinion that black did not play his best and that it could have been made a drawn game from the situation shown in No. 374. It is now up to them to show how, and THE SUN will show that it cannot be done before show, and THE SUN will show that it cannot be done before two more names will be added to the list of those entitled to white cards.

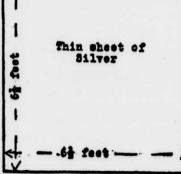PROBLEM No. 375, CHECKERS.

Black.

White.

White to play and win.

The distribution of the pieces is: Black men on 5; kings on 19, 22 and 23. White men on 10 and 13; kings on 6 and 11.

Solvers are again reminded that all answers to problems must reach the office of THE SUN not later than the morning of the second Thursday after the problem appears in order to give time for a thorough examination of the plays sent in.

THE SILVER SHEET.

Here is a little puzzle suggested by Frank S. Busser of Germantown, Pa., which has some very original elements in it:

A certain metal worker had a sheet of silver exactly six and a half feet square and very thin. He received an order of metal he was ordered to construct two triangular trays, each having just enough raised border all around to keep things from rolling off. After some talks it over the matter he agreed to the following conditions:

Thin sheet of Silver

The sheet of silver was to be subdivided in such a way as to form from the pieces two equal triangles and leave just enough material over to form a border around each of the triangles 1–14th of an inch in height.

The triangles to be as scalene, no two of their sides being equal, although each triangle is equal to the other, and the peculiarity of each triangle is that its area is to be expressed in non-fractional feet units, while the total length of its three sides is expressed in the same number of units as the area.

How is the sheet to be divided and what are the dimensions of the triangles?

ROUTE OF THE RINGERS.

EMPLOYEES of the subway, the elevated lines and the ferries note the disappearance of the ringers with the passing of every cold weather. What are ringers? They are the human derelicts who haven't a job, a home to beg the price of a bed during the day and who spend their last few cents for transportation that is to last them the night.

It is easier on the subway for the ringers than any of the other transportation systems. A man can board a train at the Brooklyn Bridge station after the express trains stop running and can ride and doze about eleven miles to, say, 181st street on the Broadway line. There he can alight and crossing the platform, catch a down train.

He can ride south to Brooklyn Bridge again or over to some island station in Brooklyn. There he can cross the station platform and start off north again, this time selecting a Bronx Park train at Brooklyn Bridge.

Ten miles or more he travels to another island station platform and then back. He is warm and fairly comfortable. During the night he travels perhaps eighty or 100 miles. He will not ride to a terminal station because the employees may hustle him off the platform to buy another ticket. The peculiarity of each triangle is that its area is to be expressed in the same number of units as the area.

The ordinary ringer programme can be carried out on the elevated lines, although the conditions are not so favorable as in the case of the subway. On the ferries it is harder still, although it can and is a done. From Cortlandt street to Weehawken is the favorite ferry for the ringer.

WHAT WINS POINTS AT ROYAL AUCTION?

Attempts to Arrive at the Comparative Value of Play and Bidding.
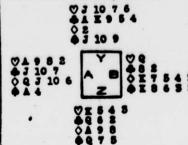
MISTAKES AS A FACTOR

Some recent attempts to arrive at the comparative value of bidding and play at auction have led to the discovery that any opinion based on an examination of the results at duplicate must be inconclusive owing to the interference of the scores in the honor column, especially of the 125 added for a game won, which gives one trick an entirely artificial value.

There also remains the eternal question. Was it the good play or sound bidding of one side or the errors of the opponents that made the difference in the final score? In a duplicate game of nine tables, playing twenty-seven deals, there were, only six in which the hand was played on the same declaration, comparing the record kept by A, W and S pair sitting still and an E and W pair going round the room. It was two hearts at one table, three clubs at another; no trump at one table, four spades at another and so on.

One of the most confusing things in trying to estimate the value of good bidding as compared with good play is the effect that stopping just short of game or going game has on the total score. In some cases a good player will get the game by superior skill, in others he gets it only through some error of his opponents. Take this hand, upon which only one pair scored game.

PROBLEM No. 374, CHECKERS.

At one table Z passed without a bid, although he has a very fair for trump. When Z passed, A bid the no trumps and B took him out with two spades, which held.

Not knowing anything about his partner's suit, Y led a small heart, with the result that it was the only opening which would allow B to go game on the hand, as he won Y's six with the singleton queen.

But the opening is not all of it. B must play the hand well to take advantage of his opportunity. The beginner would probably rush off to get out the trumps and then try to establish the diamonds, but B leads only one round of trumps, putting dummy in with the ace. Then he leads the ace of hearts and discards a losing club. The rest is easy, as two more rounds of trumps clear up everything.

This gives B 36+125—18=143 on the hand. At other tables all they make is 9 points because they cannot possibly win the game, and there are 18 points to be deducted from their 27.

When Z starts with no trump, as he undoubtedly should do, A doubles and Y anticipates the take out by showing the clubs. When B goes two spades, Z knows what to lead, and the queen of hearts never makes, so that B never gets the club ahead. Two clubs, ace of diamonds and a trump save the game.
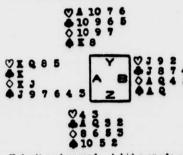
In comparing the value of bidding and play, to which account are we to charge this difference of 134 points? Shall we call it A's bad double, which allows Y to show the clubs and forces B to bid spades; two things that would never have happened if A passed?

At two tables a passed out when Z bid no trumps, and A led a diamond, setting the contract for 50 points, aces easy. As A or B must get in on anything after Y has made his five club tricks, at most of the tables at which Z had to lead in the dark he started with two diamonds, so as to avoid leading away from suits headed by single honors.

Here is another hand in which the opening lead gives the declarer a chance that he could never have made for himself, but of course he has to know how to take advantage of it.

♠ A 10 7 6
♥ 10 9 6 5
♦ 10 9 7
♣ 8 6

♠ Q 8 5   Y   ♠ J 9 7 4
♥ K J   Z   ♥ A Q
♣ J 9 7 6 4 3   ♣ A Q

♠ K 3 2
♥ 8 7 3 2
♦ A K Q J
♣ K 5

Z dealt and passed. A bid a spade and Y led a spade. Instead of opening with his four card club suit, Y led the ten of diamonds. A won the trick with the king, concealing the jack, and led the trump, the finesse of the queen getting him another club trick. Those two clubs are all Y and Z needed.

Instead of trying to put himself in on anything, as can catch Z's late trump, which would have been the beginner's idea of the hand, A leads the top diamond from dummy, picking up his trumps, and follows with another winning diamond, on which he discards the king of clubs.

Then he trumps a club, picks up Z's trump and loose one trick to the ace of hearts at the end. By securing the tricks the slam A makes 58 points more than any other pair in the room. Shall we credit this good play or to Y's error in the opening lead?

UMBRELLA VENDING.

ONCE it was the custom of the Broadway umbrella sellers, the transient species, to pick out busy spots along that thoroughfare and offer their wares to the public at 50 cents each. Foggy and rainy days and nights were the occasions when the umbrella sellers made their appearance. They seemed to spring from pretty part of the play.

B leads the king of diamonds, and forces Y refuses to play the ace, as that would clear up the whole of the dummy. If B can lead it again and finesse the ten. B expected this holdup on the part of either Y or Z, so he now leads the king of clubs, when Z passes he overtakes the jack with the queen, to make it appear as if he had no more diamonds to lead.

If Y is observant of the small cards and marks his partner's play, he will notice that when the two who are too proud to take umbrellas will show from the ten chances who to go round to take umbrellas with them from home on a threatening day and they have to conduct their business without lawful permission. Consequently they are in constant danger of being arrested. What the umbrella sellers suffered more or less from the activities of the police used to be shown by the large number of prisoners brought in from the West Forty-seventh street station on foggy and rainy nights, just when the business was beginning to thrive.

MAKING THE CHECK GOOD.

HE was in high spirits as he strolled whistling down Central Park West.

It was spring; his heart was light, the sun was shining brightly, the birds in the park were twittering merrily, and in a poker session the night before he had won $276, of which $76 was in cash. In an inside pocket a check for $200, the balance of his winnings, nestled against his heart.

It was great to be alive anyway, and wasn't it fine that he had yielded to his wife's pleas to be allowed to buy those spring clothes! The bills for the clothes had been coming in for a week now and had worried him somewhat, but now, with $276 he had not expected to get and the money he already had, he would be able to pay them without difficulty. His wife deserved all the spring clothes he could buy her. But wasn't it lucky that he had drawn that fourth ace against the cash for the night before?

He reached the bank on which the $200 check had been drawn and blithely swung through the doors, indorsed the paper and presented it at the paying teller's window.

"There was a pause while the teller got busy with his books. In a moment he was back at the window.

"Insufficient funds," he said.

The man was obscured behind black clouds, the birds in the park were squawking horribly, forgotten pains began to remind our hero of their existence.

If the maker of the check was the kind of man who would give an N. G. check to pay a poker loss, he was surely not the kind of man who would make good later thought the holder of the worthless paper. Then he had an idea. He asked the teller how much the check's maker had on deposit, but the teller refused to inform him; saying it was against the rules.

Over on a park bench our hero pondered his problem. At length he reached a solution.

The check's maker was in the theatrical business. Our hero visited a press agent of his acquaintance and got a couple of complimentary tickets. Then he visited the bank again. From the special guard he 'earned the paying teller's name.

Then he wrote a note to the paying teller, enclosing the theatre tickets, and to it he signed the name of the maker of the check. He sent the note and tickets by special messenger to the teller.

Then after waiting half an hour he called up the bank and asked to talk to the teller. When he was connected he gave the name of the maker of the check, talked pleasantly for a moment about the theatre tickets he had just sent, and then asked how large his balance was.

The teller, glad to do the favor to one who had just sent him two theatre tickets, answered:

"One hundred and forty-three dollars," he said.

Our hero after a comment or two hung up the receiver and walked straight around to the bank.

He questioned the receiving teller to make sure there would be no slip in his plan.

"Can I deposit money to another man's account?" he asked.

"Certainly," said the receiving teller. "We're always glad to get money from everybody."

Our hero then made out a deposit slip for $60, under the name of the maker of the check, and shoved the slip and $60 through the receiving teller's window.

Then he walked to the paying teller with his $200 check.

"I'd like cash for this," he said.

The paying teller looked at the check and repeated his "Insufficient funds," but our hero said loftily:

"Pardon, but a deposit which makes this good was just received."

The paying teller looked it up and found this to be correct, so there was nothing left for him to do but pay out the money. At a cost of $60 our hero had made a bad check for $200 good.

Again was the sun shining and again were the birds twittering.

CRUELTY TO CHICKENS AND MEN.

COMMISSIONER HARTIGAN of the city Bureau of Weights and Measures has been fighting for fourteen months to get the Federal Government to investigate the interstate poultry trade. Most of the chickens eaten in New York come from the middle West and about half, those for the kosher trade, are brought in alive. They are transported in specially prepared poultry cars with tiers of crates, 4,000 chickens to a car.

These chickens are sold by the pound. When the farmer turns them over to the shipper he wants the maximum weight of course. Instead, to give them plenty of the "paste." The commission merchant is forced to employ the same methods. Result, when the chicken eventually reaches the consumer it has ruined its digestion and perhaps is in a condition to ruin the digestion of whoever makes a meal of it.

Mr. Hartigan wants the Government to send its inspectors aboard all New York bound trains carrying poultry at Philadelphia or Albany and examine each fowl to prevent this practice.